



Start of Ludwig Strauss Collection

AR 11765

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AR 11765

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Ludwig Strauss Collection

1941-1945

Archives

#36

Curriculum Vitae of the former high school teacher Ludwig Strauss
Presently at Camp Recebedou (near Toulouse), France
Pavilion 2

I was born on October 30th, 1855 in Niederkirchen (Palatinate) and am almost 86 years old. My wife was born on December 16th, 1856, and will be 85 on December 16th, 1941. We both grew up in observant Jewish families in the country. I attended a commercial high school, the royal preparatory school and graduated from the Royal Teacher Training Seminary in 1874. In 1875, upon the invitation of the government in Speyer, I joined the faculty of the Baermann'sche Realschule (High School for Boys) in Bad Duerkheim, where I served as a teacher, without interruption, for 45 years until my retirement in 1920. Besides my teaching activities, I devoted 30 years to the town of Bad Duerkheim in various other ways. I was active in the administration of the respected and well-off Jewish community of Bad Duerkheim, served as president of the rabbinical district Duerkheim-Ludwigshafen and as treasurer of the Association of Jewish Congregations in the Palatinate. I was elected to the Bad Duerkheim City Council by the entire citizenry for 18 years and served in the administration of various scientific, social and musical associations. My philanthropic activities and humane attitude are amply demonstrated by the fact, I believe, that I served as Grand Master of the Haardt Lodge of the Odd Fellows and was the designated Grand Representative of the district Grand Lodge of Wuertemberg. My wife and I would be only too happy to find a new home in America and to spend the last years of our lives there in peace and quiet.

September 2nd, 1941 - Recebedou

1
Lebenslauf
des pfaffenberger Kavalleristen
Ludwig Krauß
J. J. im Camp von Récebedou
(près Toulouse)
France
Pavillon 2.

Ich bin am 30. Oktober 1855 zu
Niederkirchen (Balt.) geboren, habe
also heute im 86. Lebensjahr. Meine
Frau ist am 16. Dezember 1856 geboren,
und also heute am 16. Dezember 1941
im 85. Lebensjahr. Wir sind
entkommen, sind in
das Land. Ich habe die Pensionszahl
(früher Ober-Regimentszahl) die Reg. Zahl
gegenwärtig ist abgesetzt im
Jahre 1874 der Reg. Infanterie.
Auf Veranstaltung der Pensionszahl zu
Leyer hat ich im Jahre 1875 in der
Kollation der Rammannschen Pensions-
zahl eine Pensionszahl zu Bad Dürkheim
hin, der ich im Jahre 1875 45 Jahre
findung bis zu meiner Pensionierung
im Jahre 1920 als Pensionszahl und
fort. Aber meine pfaffenberger Pensions-
konto ist in der Stadt Bad Dürkheim
eine ungenutzte Pensionszahl im Jahre

12. 8. 41.

New York.

12. 8. 41.

unsern Kindern Elsa und Dr. Karl sind mit Mama und Papa
und im neuen Sommerhaus, im neuen Grundstück
in der Nähe der Kirche und der Schule, ganz schön
zu sehen. Ich habe, meine Freunde, eine Freude
an der Hofmollerei der Götter. Ich habe die
mit mir nach der neuen prächtigen Zimmer
Manfred, Familie Danneberg, Paul Weiler
und alle Bekannten und Freunde aus der
ganzen Region.

N. B. Der einzige Mönch ist auch, ich bin
im Jahre der der Old-Fellow-Orden.
und der neuen Prospekt in Washington.
Ich habe auch eine kleine Befriedigung
erhalten.

Mit besten Empfehlungen
und der Versicherung eines einflussreichen
Freundes und Bekannten

Ich habe
Ludwig Haupt.

Camp de Pécabidou
(près Toulouse)
Baillon 2.

Camp in Recebedou (near Toulouse)

Pavilion 2

Aug. 12, 1941

Esteemed Family

Mr. Walter Jonas

New York

After a long pause, finally a sign of life which you, the Walter Jonas family, are getting from your loyal former teacher, co-religionist and neighbor Ludwig Strauss. I owe the fact that this letter is being written to the American Friends in Marseille who forwarded a gift of 215 Francs to me and informed me, following my inquiry of a couple of weeks ago, that you, my dear friend, were the source of the gift. I wish to thank you, dear Walter Jonas and family, from the bottom of my heart for the gift! It pains me to tell you that today the two of us, my wife and I, count among the poor people who have to depend on the support of charitable human beings, friends and acquaintances. My beautiful house in Bad Duerkheim became the property of the town of Bad Duerkheim for the price of M11,000. However, I have not seen a penny of it. My retirement benefits stopped in October of the previous year, and rent payments for my properties are two years overdue. You can understand the lamentable situation we find ourselves in. The last part of our lives is filled with deprivation and need. If my friends, my pupils in the USA, wish to show their compassion, their loyalty and gratitude, they have sufficient reason and plenty of opportunity these days. I don't doubt that you, my dear friend, will be supportive of us in this situation.

What else can I tell you, my friend? My wife and I have kept our most valuable treasure, our health, despite the poor nutrition and the disadvantages of climate and weather. On Aug. 20th of last year, my wife and I celebrated our diamond (60 years) wedding anniversary, a rare joy in the lifetime of a human being. I had to spend the day in bed - pneumonia - the first serious illness in my life. The doctor did not want to permit visits, but I insisted that all those who wanted to could enter the room, shake my hand and congratulate me. We have now spent ten months in the camps of Gurs and Recebedou (both in southern France). Our children Elsa and son Dr. Karl with all of theirs' as well as all the Israelites from Baden and the Palatinate are our companions-in-suffering. It is our hope that we may trust in your continued empathy and kindness. Convey my greetings to your dear wife, your wonderful son Manfred, the family Dannheisser, Paul Weiller as well as all acquaintances and friends from the old days.

P.S. Several months ago I turned to the Odd-Fellow-Order and their Lodge in Washington for help. I have received no answer as yet.

With sincere greetings and the assurance of everlasting friendship and closeness,

Your loyal Ludwig Strauss

Camp de Recebedou (near Toulouse), Pavilion 2

A horizontal ruler with markings from 0 to 6. The markings are evenly spaced and labeled with integers.

glänze Lob und Dank, man
müßte sich's eben so denken.

Mit den besten Grüßen,
an alle Freunde, an Sie
von mir immer sehr herzlich
Grüßen

Ihr treuer Verbundener

Ludwig Raup

Siehe Gränge von man
Lied in unsern Händen.

Ludwig Raup
Camp de Recébedou
(près Toulouse)
Bavillon 2

Mr. Walter Jonas
228 Audubon Ave.
Manhattan, NY

(the stamp on the envelope indicates in French that the mail was censored by Camp Security)

Convey my greetings to your father-in-law Mr. Dannheisser and his sons, also your brother Edgar and his family, Kehr and wife Lena. What you are writing about your son Manfred brings me great happiness. Back in our old home, the lovely and courageous boy was a joy to have around. My present state of poverty which is not of my own making - I did not receive a penny for my house and my pension is suspended - forces me to speak openly. I am without financial means. I am appealing to you as a former pupil of mine, take care of me and ask friends of mine who are there to send me a few dollars. I had every right to expect a more comfortable old age. But I am bearing the same lot as thousands of my unhappy co-religionists.

Best regards to all friends and to your very dear wife, your loyal

Ludwig Strauss

Best regards from my wife and our children.



Page 1 was lost

Page 2

.....two policemen and one official came to search the house for weapons. Half an hour later, two officials came and took away our car, then the windows of our store were smashed, and the highlight came at 11 a.m. when a car carrying twenty men arrived; they demolished the furniture, porcelains, pictures etc. in our apartment. But that was not enough; three hours later, the gang (illegible) returned and destroyed everything that had been left undamaged. Now I began to fear for my life; I took my pocketbook and went to the train station, accompanied by forty Hitler Youths who followed me to the station and told the supervisor not to sell a train ticket to the Jewess. Half out of my mind, I arrived in Mannheim in the evening. When all Jews had to leave the Palatinate (Pfalz), I moved in with relatives in Mannheim. After about 16 days, my husband returned from Dachau, a broken man. We lived in Mannheim for two years.

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In the course of the second year, we took my elderly parents to live with us. We were given a monthly amount from our confiscated account which had been placed in escrow. On Oct. 22, at 8 o'clock in the morning, the police awakened us; they were shouting "Get yourselves and your parents ready, you have to leave Mannheim in one hour; everybody is permitted one piece of hand luggage with necessities and warm blankets. - My father was 86 years old and my mother 85; and so we packed four valises with blankets, which my husband and I took turns carrying. - The following day, after a horrible night spent squeezed together on the floor in a school building, we were loaded onto a train. Nobody knew where the journey was going, because we did not see any railroad personnel. Soon, however, we could see that we were going to France, and after two nights and days we arrived in Camp de Gurs, a camp in hell; the ground was so wet that one often waded up to the hips in filth.

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The camp was not at all prepared for the arrival of 8000 Jews from Baden and the Palatinate, and we had to arrange ourselves on straw on the floor, always in fear that rats would jump over our faces. - Immediately in the first few days, a serious disease, dysentery, broke out, and 15-25 people died every day. Gurs, at that time, had a population of 20,000 Jews living in various huts (illegible), surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by police, which made flight impossible. Food consisted of a ration of dry bread, black coffee, mornings, middays and evenings yellow peas, we called them marble peas because they were so hard as to be barely edible. - Geff (? name) asked a policeman how long he thought we might have to stay here. When he answered that he thought it would be two weeks, I did not think I could last so long; but then the two weeks turned into six years. After five months in Gurs,

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we were sent to Recebedou - a camp whose barracks were in a better state of repair - because the housing would supposedly be an improvement for my elderly parents. - The food was somewhat better, not to speak of the sand which we had to eat along with the various vegetables. My father died in this camp within four days of cold and hunger, my mother followed him six months later after a long illness. -Two years later, my husband and I were transferred to Verdun (? Dept. Tarn-et-Garonne), a small horrible camp with barracks, three-tiered wooden bunks, heavily guarded, most people infested with lice.

2) From here, my husband and 100 comrades-in-misery were deported to Poland, and never again was anything heard from them. + There I cleaned vegetables during the day so I could give my husband the plate of soup we were paid for the work. In March 1943, we were transferred to Masseube, a small camp with 15 barracks in the Département Gers.

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Here, too, things were not good in the beginning, but then we got a humane, friendly administrator under whose leadership life was made tolerable. And after the liberation of France, we were permitted, for the first time in years, to leave the camp and to move about freely. - At this time, a Jewish organization took care of us and provided housing for the survivors in different buildings; only 700 Jews had survived of the 8000 who had been deported to France on Oct. 22, 1940. Along with 100 others, I had the good fortune to be sent to a small seaside town in southern France; we were housed in a spacious hotel, with nice rooms, a bath, a dining room. The food was very good, and the administration showed full understanding for the

psyche of the elderly people who had experienced so much pain and deprivation. Again, as in the other camp, I helped in caring for my companions.
For the past three months I have lived

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in America and I hope to be able to spend a few quiet and peaceful days here in order to put behind me the suffering and sadness of the past fifteen years since Hitler came to power; and to be able to forget.
Signed G.A.

Note: in the original, Mrs. Abraham consistently refers to the deportees as people, then changes it to Jews.

[illegible]

3

Der 2. Teil war nun in mein Betag
 der Zeit zu mir & wir bekamen
 monatl. in der Zeit aus dem Aufgange
 nach dem Hause zu halten.
 Am 22 Okt. Morgens 8 Uhr kam der
 Palast mit sehr Ruhe. Nachher die
 n. Ihre Eltern sich sehr, zu dem
 Ende. Wüssten die Mutterheim
 verlassen erlaubt. Es für sehr
 ein Gluckepper mit dem Tüftler
 für die warme Bekan. - Mein Vater war
 66 Jahre & meine Mutter 55. Ja ganz
 wie 4 Köpfe mit. Nachher, die Eltern
 waren sehr abwechselnd zu dem
 Tag für den feierlichen Tag, auf
 gesandung, oft auf dem Tischchen
 in der Küche wurden wir am nächsten
 Tag in einem Zieg verladen, nie
 mehr wüsste wahren die Reise sehr
 dem kein Ziegenfarnel was zu sehen.
 Bald jedoch sah man dass es Frank-
 reich zugehen. Ich muss 2 Tüftler
 Lagen Landen mit der Lamp
 der Luft, ein Lagen der Platte
 mit warack. Baden, so dass
 man oft bei zu den Tüftler
 in den wätere.

[illegible]

6- Auf die hier ganz abwesend im Anfang
in der Gesellschaft einen merkwürdigen
Freund. Dachte, ich könnte unter
dessen Leitung mit ein erkleckliches
Gehalt führen könnten. Und als
ich in dem Frankreich erfolgte
~~besuchte~~ mich auf Jahren zum ersten
Mal, da lag er verlassen in dem
für bewegte - ihn nahmen die
aus. Er hatte sich umgeben an
Gemeinschaften der 16 Jahre, die
er von 1800 bis 1812 in
1810 auf Frankreich verbracht worden
in der seine Häuser. Ich hatte
das Glück mit ihm zu bleiben. In Bade-
platz, an der Pflanzung, zu
Karten, was in dem Hotel mit hieß.
Lohn. Bei, Spelende. Ich die Bekämpfung
war sehr ausständig. In dem
hatte für alles Fortschritt für
in. Ich in allen Leuten. Ich so viel
Leid & Gerechtigkeit in der Welt
wie schon in den anderen Tagen
arbeitete ich fort in der Welt
einige Monate in dem.

Sechs Monaten bis zum in

in Anwesenheit hatte hier sehr
an der angenehmen Tage und
in Ruhe als die Verhältnisse
es können im Jahre 1851 der
Kaiser den 15 Jahre und in
Macht der Regierung etwas
vergessen zu können.

G. H. —

[illegible][illegible]

Meine Aho Nien. Wie geht es Euch, hoffentlich gut, soviel von
mir auch verstanden. Einmal. Was macht v. d. Werra, f. d. Werra
Lanka? Schreibt euch mal ein Bild von Luta! Das Lauf den
Bie. Dr. nicht funny, sondern nein. Nun f. d. Werra ich
Schluß machen. Alles Gute, gute Freitage. Tünse in
Heinz den v. d. Werra. Tübel. Tübel. Tübel. Tübel.

... in der That nicht anders als
... in der That nicht anders als

10. *Aspergillus* ...

House of Representatives. No. 26 in the series.

1. The first week was very busy, and I

[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]

aus dem ...

des 16 ans de fin de la guerre
les années de la guerre i. la guerre
les années de la guerre i. la guerre

[illegible]



End of Ludwig Strauss Collection

